(c) All the remaining villages are proposed to be provided with telecom facility progressively by March 2002 with the joint efforts of Private Basic Service Operators(PBSOs).

Supply of Fibre Optic Board Based Network

187. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the Railways, Power Grid and Organisations like Enron and Reliance also plan to supply fibre optic board based network; and

if-so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The National Telecom Policy '99 envisages the usage of existing backbone network of public and private power transmission companeis/Railways/GAIL/ONGC for national long distance communications. As regards the plan to supply fibre optic board based network by organisations like Enron, Reliance, it is stated that no such reference has been received in the department for the purpose.

Printing of Postal Stamps

†188. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

the types of various postal stamps printed during the last three years;

the number of stamps printed in the security press of Government out of above;

whether some of the stamps were printed from somewhere else if so, the names thereof;

the total cost incurred on the printing of postal stamps in Government and private presses; and

whether the security press in Pune is lying closed alongwith the reasons for delay in the repairing work of the same?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) All the remaining villages are proposed to be provided with telecom facility progressively by March 2002 with the joint efforts of Private Basic Service Operators(PBSOs).

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The cost of printing through private security printers is as below:

One colour	—	Rs, 3.50/-per issue sheet.
Two/Three colour sheet	—	Rs. 4.40/- per issue sheet.
Four/Five colour sheet	—	Rs. 5.25/-per issue sheet
Six/Seven/Eight colour	—	Rs. 6.00/- per issue sheet

(e) The India Security Press, Nashik (not at Pune) is not closed. However, the mufti-colour photogravure stamp printing machine called 'Rambrant' which is used by the press for printing of commemorative postage stamps is out of order. The India Security Press authority is reported to be taking necessary action for repairing the same in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

Free Telephone Connections to the Employees of DoT

189. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

the total number of employees of Department of Telecommunications and Telecom Services to be provided telephone connections free of cost in Karnataka;

the number of free calls to be provided to these employees (bi-monthly); and

whether Government would ensure that the persons in the waiting *list* will not be affected by this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, a decision has been taken to extend certain concessions to the employees of Telecom Department in obtaining a private telephone connection. The approximate number of employees eligible to get concession in Karnataka Circle is 22,936. However, no orders have been issued so far as there is an interim stay granted by the Hon'ble Kerala High Court.

(b) The number of bi-monthly free calls admissible to these employees will be 250 calls in rural areas and 150 calls in urban area.

(c) Since the telephone connections will be obtained by the employees in private capacity, these will be provided to the employees in accordance with the prevailing priority in the respective area of exchange and will not affect the persons in the watting list.